

DRAFT

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Dear Ms. Pardo,

On behalf of Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council member, Administrator Scott Pruitt, I thank you for the National Advisory Committee (NAC) letter of advice of April 5, 2017, reporting on our forty-eighth meeting held in Washington, D.C. on March 28-29, 2017. Our discussion at the meeting on how to strengthen the concepts and proposed results of cooperative trilateral project proposals under consideration for the CEC operational plan was very valuable. We appreciate the NAC's comprehensive advice on the twelve projects under consideration for the 2017-2018 Operational Plan.

### **NAC General Thematic Recommendations**

1. Clarity about the Big Problem
2. Specificity in Measurable Outcomes
3. Clarity on Methodology, Approach, Mechanism
4. Clear Links to Related and Larger, Ongoing Efforts
5. Attention to Long Term Financial Sustainability
6. Communications and Outreach

We agree that these are six essential components for successful projects. We have shared NAC's advice with the U.S. project teams, and requested that they more clearly identify the trilateral "big problem" or need to be addressed, what gaps exist, and to explore project links and context at the micro- and macro-levels. We desire to achieve measureable results and agree that having more specific measurable outcomes in capacities, behaviors, and environmental impacts is vital in determining a project's success. Long-term sustainability of these projects, where applicable, is important to us. Understanding how each project may fit among the larger national, tri-national, and global context is important to understand how the project or its products can become sustainable over the long-term. While project proposals were developed by trilateral consensus, implementation would certainly present strategic challenges and opportunities in the local, national, trilateral context. The project teams are currently fleshing out details for the full proposals, including milestones, partnerships, and proposed products and outcomes in line with the clearer definitions of "big problems", gaps, and objectives. While detailed methodologies are not included in the project proposal, these are developed and implemented through trilateral expert teams as the projects proceed to implementation. We also continue to work with project teams to engage youth in projects as applicable. Leveraging various communications outlets will be vital in promoting the value of the projects as well as engaging youth, academia, industry and other stakeholders.

### **Project Specific Advice on the 12 Individual Preliminary CEC Project Proposals**

**Project 1: Building Community Capacity to Reduce Marine Litter in North America  
Border Watersheds**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Project 2: Conserving shorebirds through community engagement at key sites in Canada,  
the United States and Mexico**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Project 3: Tools for Expanding Food Loss and Waste Prevention, Recovery, and Recycling in North America**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Project 4: Impact of Private Sector Supply Chain Energy Efficiency Efforts through ISO 50001

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Project 5: Improving Black Carbon Emissions Inventory Data for Residential Wood Combustion

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

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### **Project 6: Supporting Science for Continental Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

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**Project 7: Helping North American communities respond to extreme heat events (Phase II)**  
**– Scaling up syndromic surveillance systems**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Project 8: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as Tools for Promoting Ocean Health**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

**Project 9: Implementation of North American Action Plans to boost the sustainable, legal and traceable production and trade of CITES Appendix II priority sharks, turtles, tarantulas and timber**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

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Project 10: North American TEK Atlas/Inventory and case studies on best practices in integrating TEK in decision making in the three countries

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Project 11: Reducing Emissions from Goods Movement via Maritime Transportation in North America (Phase III)

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**



## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Project 12: Quantifying Methane and Black Carbon Emissions from Flaring in the Oil and Gas Industry

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

NAC's Advice on the CEC Project Proposal Process

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

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On behalf of our Administrator Scott Pruitt, we would like to thank you for your valuable advice and insight into our projects. It is always beneficial to have perspectives from industry, academia, and NGO's. We look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen the cooperation among the United States, Canada, and Mexico on trade and environment matters through the trilateral CEC.

Sincerely,

Jane Nishida

U.S. Alternative Representative